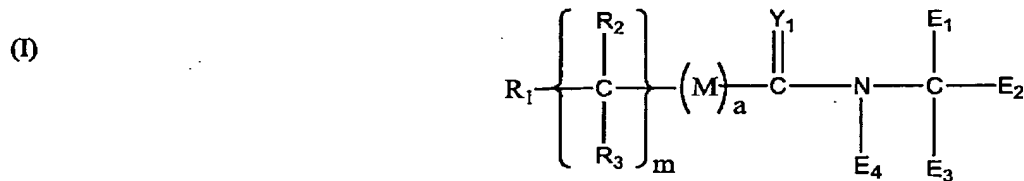


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound comprising the formula:



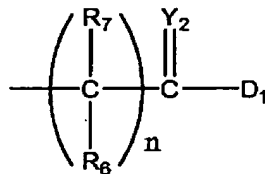
wherein:

R_1 is a polymeric residue;

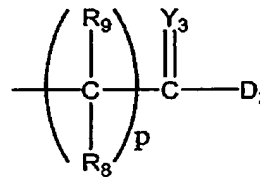
Y_1 is O, S or NR_4 ;

M is O, S or NR_5 ;

E_1 is



$E_{2,4}$ are independently H, E, or



(a) is zero or one;

(m) is zero or a positive integer;

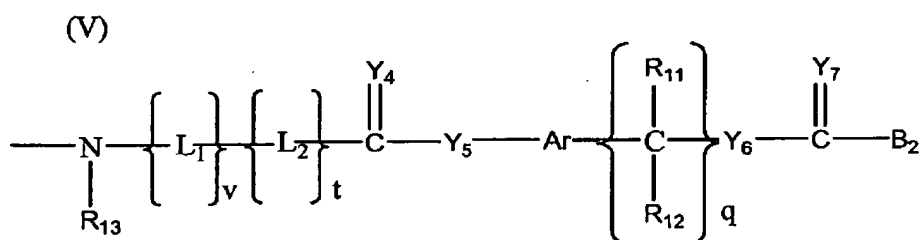
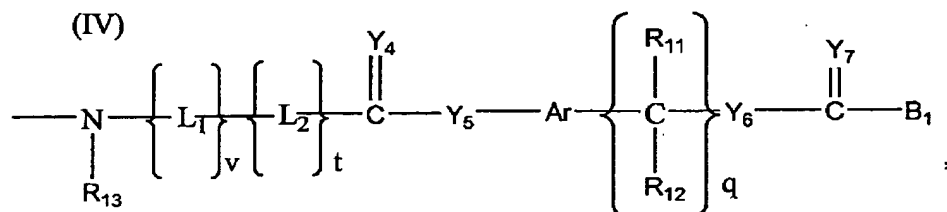
(n) and (p) are independently 0 or a positive integer;

$Y_{2,3}$ are independently O, S or NR_{10} ;

R_{2-10} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen,

C_{1-6} alkyls, C_{3-12} branched alkyls, C_{3-8} cycloalkyls, C_{1-6} substituted alkyls, C_{3-8} substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls, C_{1-6} heteroalkyls, substituted C_{1-6} hetero-alkyls, C_{1-6} alkoxy, phenoxy and C_{1-6} heteroalkoxy;

D_1 and D_2 are independently ΘH ;



or a terminal branching group;

wherein

(v) and (t) are independently 0 or a positive integer up to about 6;

(q) is zero or a positive integer;

L_1 and L_2 are independently selected bifunctional linkers;

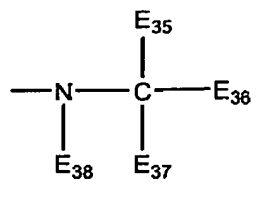
$Y_{4,7}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of O, S and NR_{14} ;

R_{11-14} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyls, C_{3-12} branched alkyls, C_{3-8} cycloalkyls, C_{1-6} substituted alkyls, C_{3-8} substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls, C_{1-6} heteroalkyls, substituted C_{1-6} heteroalkyls, C_{1-6} alkoxy, phenoxy and C_{1-6} heteroalkoxy heteroalkoxy;

Ar is a moiety which when included in Formula (I) forms a multi-substituted aromatic hydrocarbon or a multi-substituted heterocyclic group;

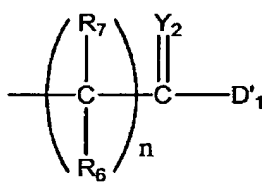
B_1 and B_2 are independently selected from the group consisting of leaving groups, OH, residues of hydroxyl-containing moieties or amine-containing moieties; or

a terminal branching group of the formula

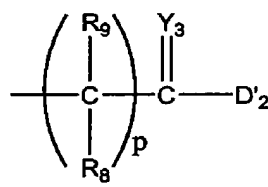


wherein

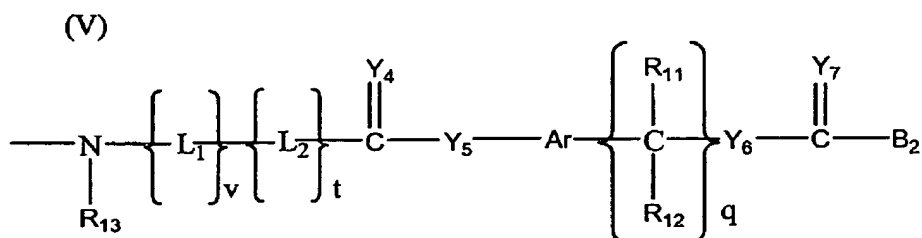
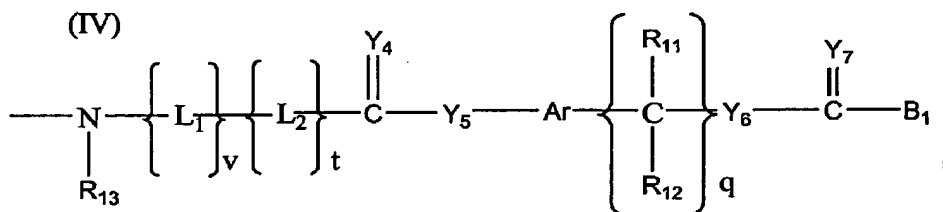
E_{35} is



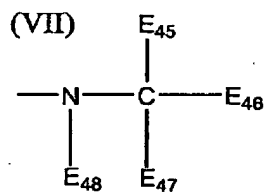
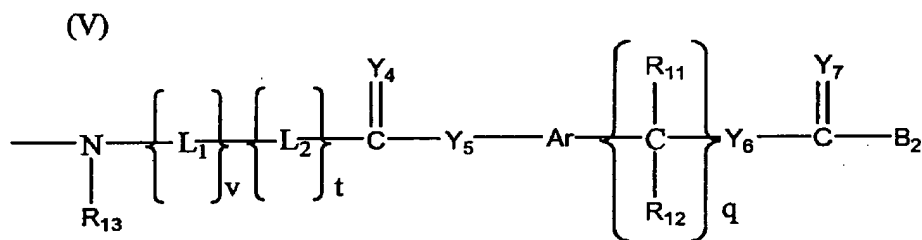
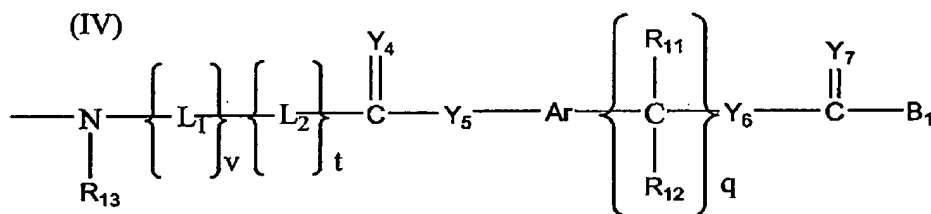
E_{36-38} are independently H, E_{35} or



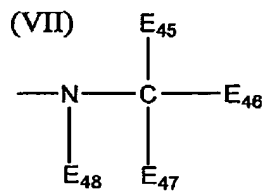
D'_1 is



or

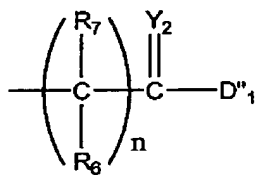
D' is OH

or

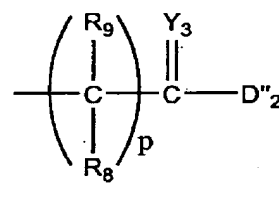


wherein

E₄₅ is

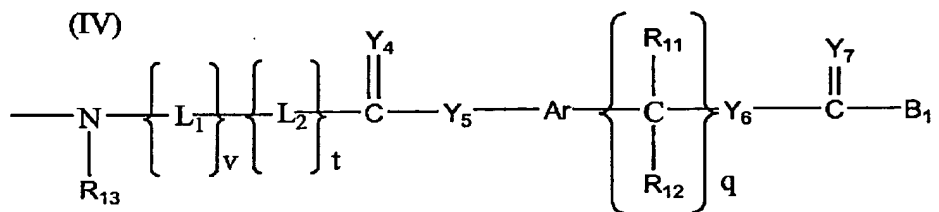


E₄₆₋₄₈ are independently H, E₄₅ or

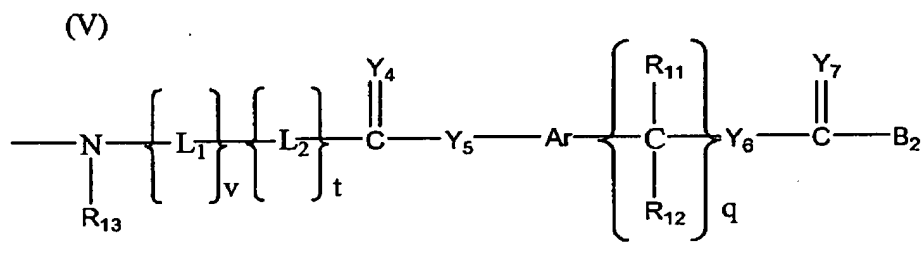


wherein

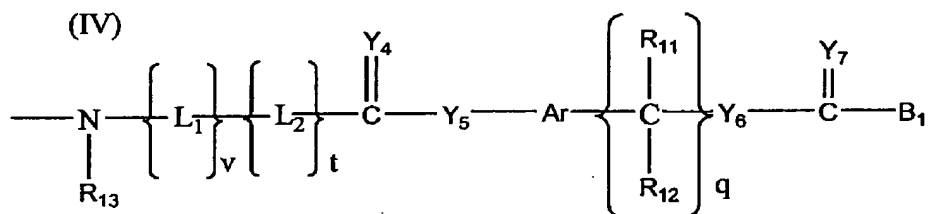
D''₁ is



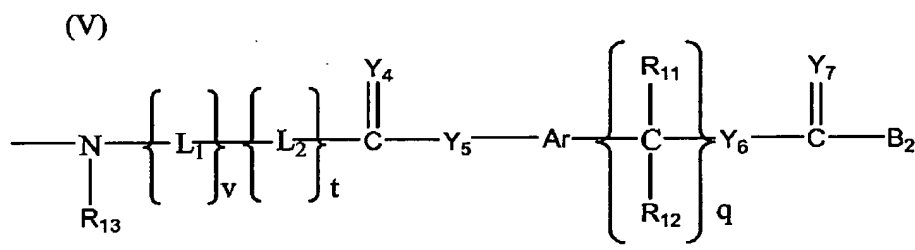
or



D''₂ is OH.



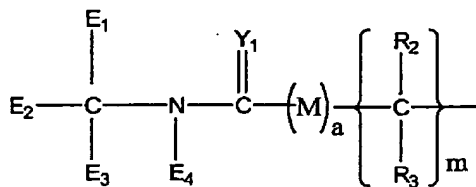
or



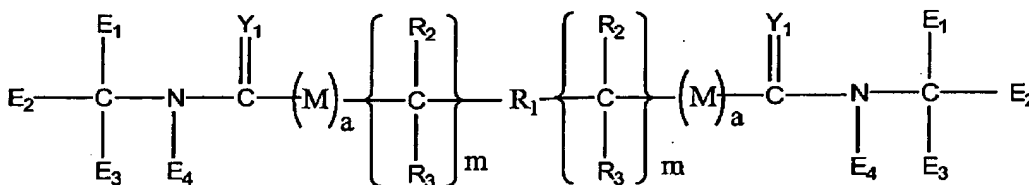
provided that E_{2,4} are not all H and

~~D₁ and D₂ are both not OH.~~

2. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein R₁ further comprises a capping group A, selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, NH₂, OH, CO₂H, C₁₋₆ moieties and



3. (Original) A compound of claim 2, comprising the formula:



4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 3, wherein Y_1 is O.

6. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein R_1 comprises a polyalkylene oxide residue.

7. (Original) The compound of claim 6, wherein R_1 comprises a polyethylene glycol residue.

8. (Original) The compound of claim 3, wherein R_1 comprises a polyethylene glycol residue.

9. (Original) The compound of claim 6, wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of
 $-C(=Y_8)-(CH_2)_f-O-(CH_2CH_2O)_x-A$, $-C(=Y_8)-Y_9-(CH_2)_f-O-(CH_2CH_2O)_x-A$,
 $-C(=Y_8)-NR_{20}-(CH_2)_f-O-(CH_2CH_2O)_x-A$, $-(CR_{21}R_{22})_e-O-(CH_2)_f-O-(CH_2CH_2O)_x-A$,
 $-NR_{20}-(CH_2)_f-O-(CH_2CH_2O)_x-A$, $-C(=Y_8)-(CH_2)_f-O-(CH_2CH_2O)_x-(CH_2)_f-C(=Y_8)-$,
 $-C(=Y_8)-Y_9-(CH_2)_f-O-(CH_2CH_2O)_x-(CH_2)_f-Y_9-C(=Y_8)-$,
 $-C(=Y_8)-NR_{20}-(CH_2)_f-O-(CH_2CH_2O)_x-(CH_2)_f-NR_{20}-C(=Y_8)-$,
 $-(CR_{21}R_{22})_e-O-(CH_2)_f-O-(CH_2CH_2O)_x-(CH_2)_f-O-(CR_{21}R_{22})_e-$, and
 $-NR_{20}-(CH_2)_f-O-(CH_2CH_2O)_x-(CH_2)_f-NR_{20}-$

wherein:

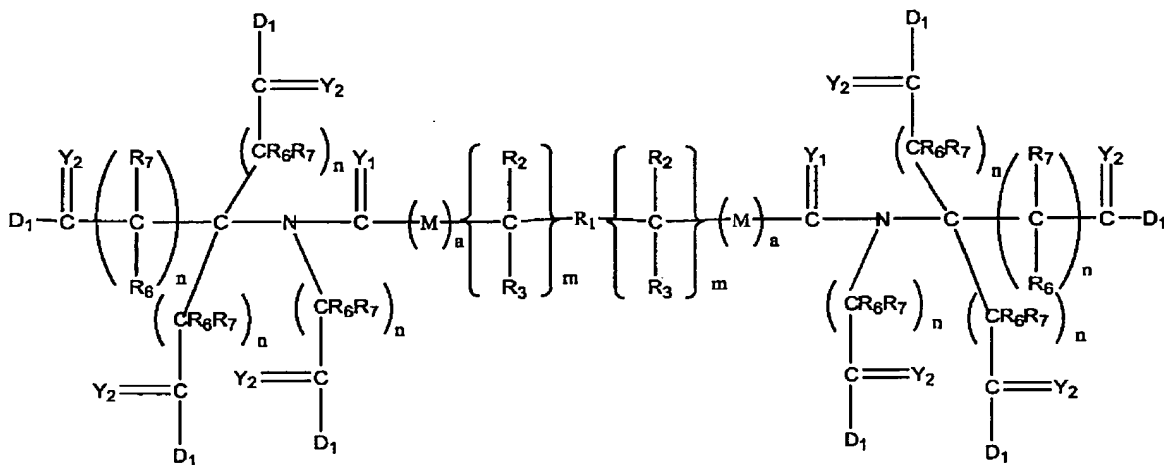
Y_8 and Y_9 are independently O, S or NR_{20} ;

x is the degree of polymerization;

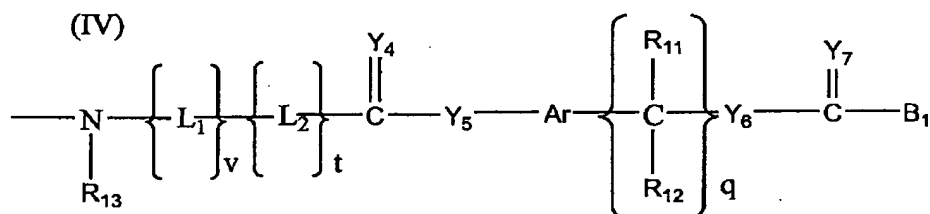
R_{20} , R_{21} and R_{22} are independently selected from among H, C_{1-6} alkyls, C_{3-12} branched alkyls, C_{3-8} cycloalkyls, C_{1-6} substituted alkyls, C_{3-8} substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls,

A is a capping group.

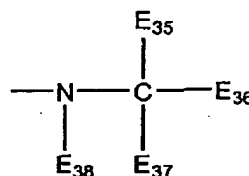
10. (Original) The compound of claim 9, wherein R_1 comprises $-O-(CH_2CH_2O)_x$ and x is a positive integer so that the weight average molecular weight is at least about 20,000.
11. (Original) The compound of claim 3, wherein R_1 has a weight average molecular weight of from about 20,000 to about 100,000.
12. (Original) The compound of claim 3, wherein R_1 has a weight average molecular weight of from about 25,000 to about 60,000.
13. (Original) A compound of claim 3, comprising the formula



14. (Original) The compound of claim 13, wherein D_1 is



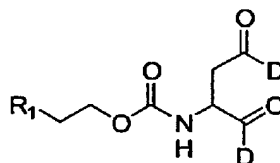
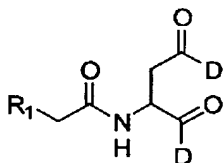
15. (Original) The compound of claim 13, wherein D_1 is

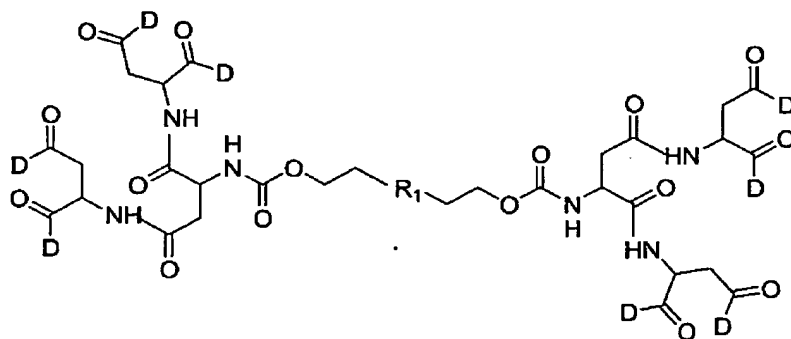
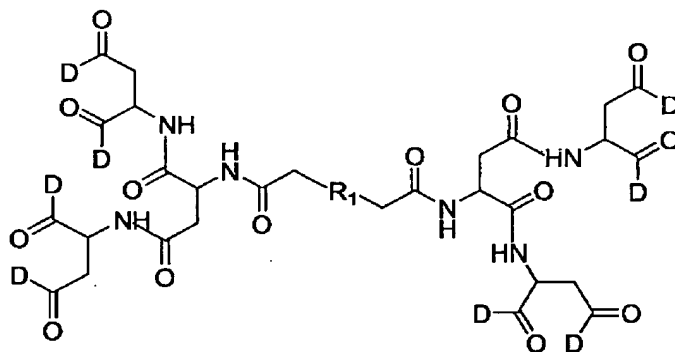
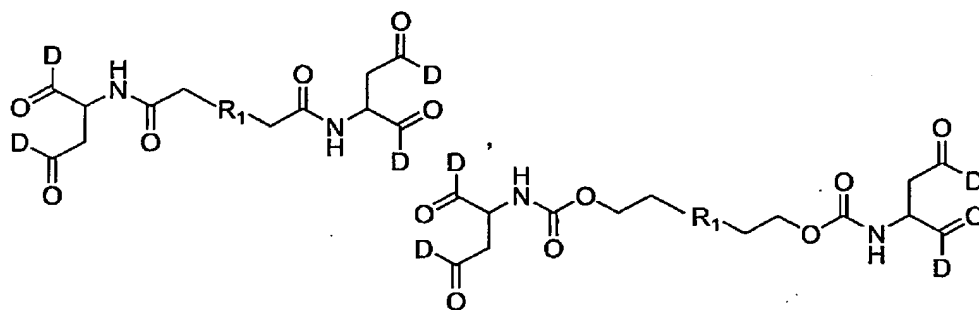


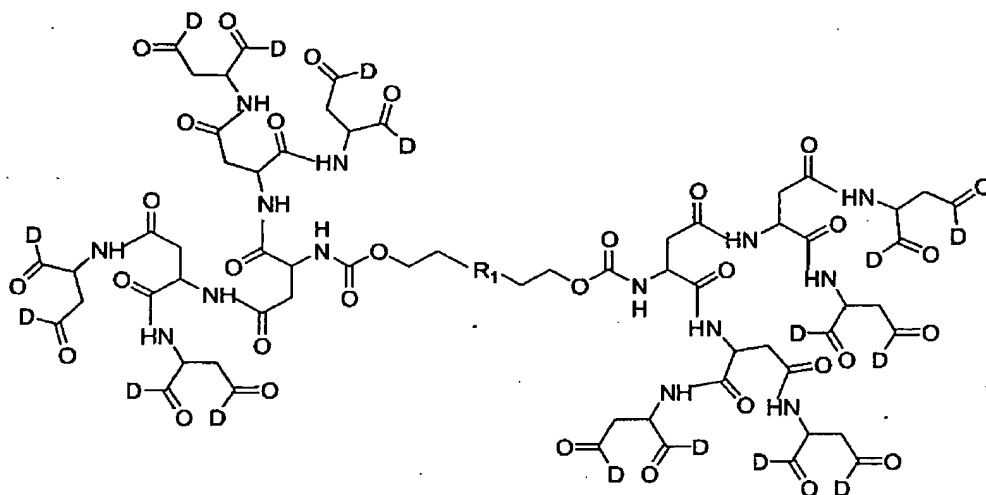
16. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein L_1 is $(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_2$.

17. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein L_2 is selected from the group consisting of $-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NHCH}(\text{CH}_3)-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NHCH}_2-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{-NH-}$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{-NH-C}(\text{O})(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{NH-}$ and $-\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NHCH}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2)-$.

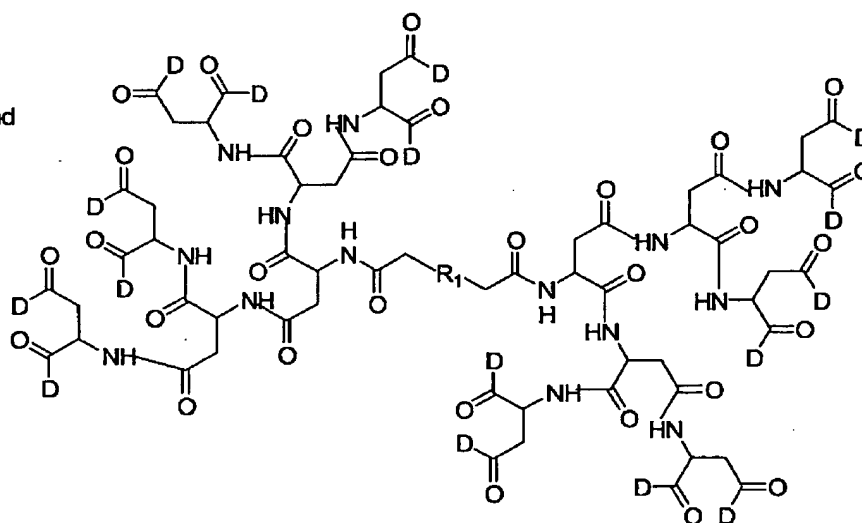
18. (Original) A compound of claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:



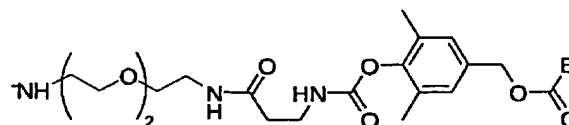
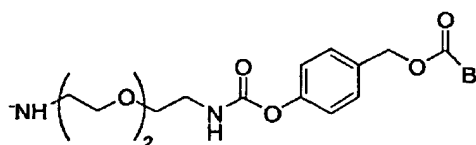
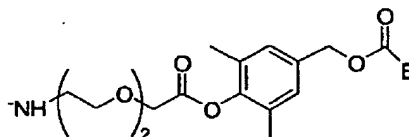
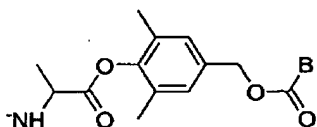
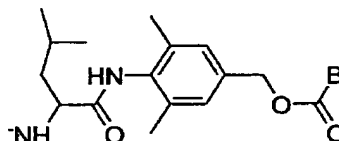
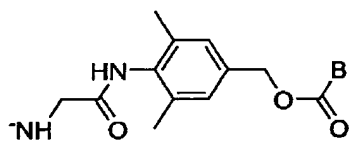
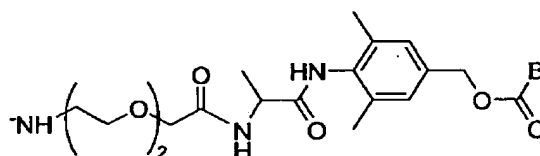
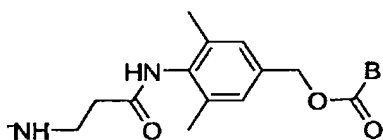
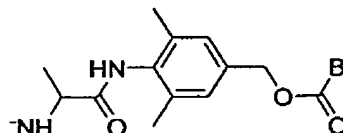
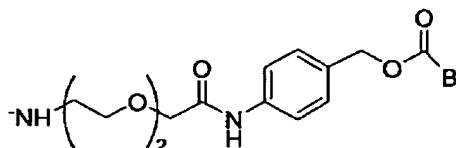
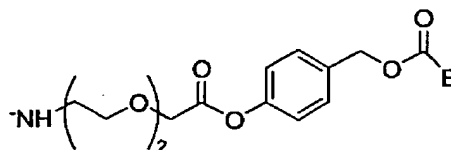
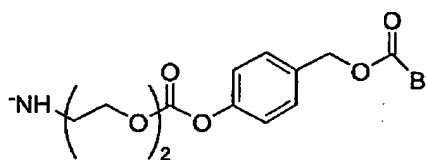


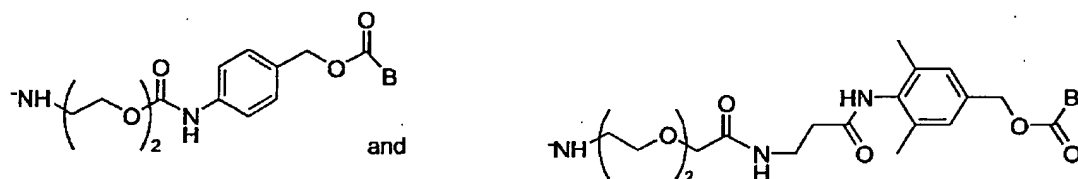


and



wherein R_1 is a PEG residue and D is selected from the group comprising:





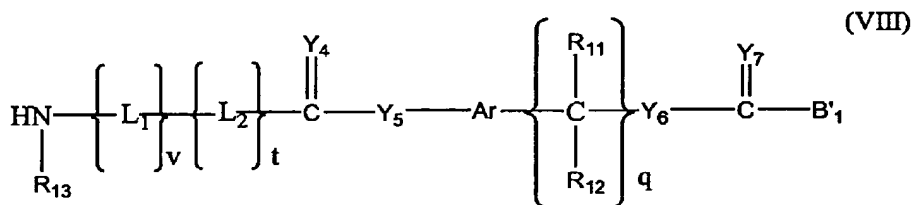
where B is a residue of an amine or a hydroxyl- containing drug.

19. (Original) A compound of claim 18, wherein B is a residue of a member of the group consisting of: daunorubicin, doxorubicin; *p*-aminoaniline mustard, melphalan, Ara-C (cytosine arabinoside), leucine-Ara-C, and gemcitabine.

20. (Original) A method of treatment, comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 1, wherein D₁ is a residue of a biologically active moiety.

21. (Original) A method of treatment, comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 18.

22. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing a polymer conjugate, comprising: reacting a compound of the formula (VIII):



wherein

(v) and (t) are independently 0 or a positive integer up to about 6;

L₁ and L₂ are independently selected bifunctional linkers;

Y_{4-7} are independently selected from the group consisting of O, S and NR_{14} ;

R_{11-14} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen,

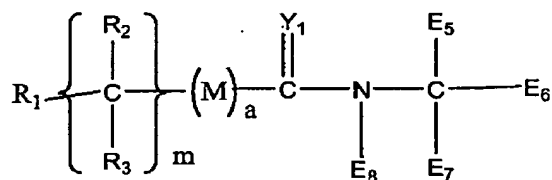
C_{1-6} alkyls, C_{3-12} branched alkyls, C_{3-8} cycloalkyls, C_{1-6} substituted alkyls, C_{3-8} substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls, C_{1-6} heteroalkyls, substituted C_{1-6} heteroalkyls, C_{1-6} alkoxy, phenoxy and C_{1-6} heteroalkoxy;

Ar is a moiety which when included in Formula (I) forms a multi-substituted aromatic hydrocarbon or a multi-substituted heterocyclic group; and

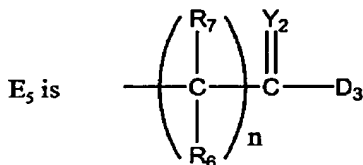
B' is a residue of a hydroxyl- or an amine-containing moiety;

with a compound of the formula (IX):

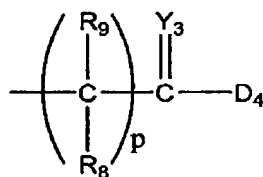
(IX)



wherein



E_{6-8} are independently H, E_5 or



wherein

D_3 and D_4 are independently OH, a leaving group which is capable of reacting with an unprotected amine or hydroxyl or a terminal branching group;

R_1 is a polymeric residue;

Y_1 is O, S or NR_4 ;

M is O, S or NR_5 ;

(n) and (p) are independently 0 or a positive integer;

$Y_{2,3}$ are independently O, S or NR_{10} ; and

R_{2-10} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyls, C_{3-12} branched alkyls, C_{3-8} cycloalkyls, C_{1-6} substituted alkyls, C_{3-8} substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls, C_{1-6} heteroalkyls, substituted C_{1-6} hetero-alkyls, C_{1-6} alkoxy, phenoxy and C_{1-6} heteroalkoxy;

provided that E_{6-8} are not all H;

and D_3 and D_4 are not both OH;

under conditions sufficient to cause a polymeric conjugate to be formed.